

WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1. A method for retrieving stored data from an MWD tool, through an antenna used for conventional EM data telemetry, the method comprising the steps of:
 - 5 a) establishing electrical contact of a surface transceiver with respect to first and second electrically isolated regions defining said antenna to permit communication with said MWD tool,
 - b) initiating said MWD tool to transfer data through said antenna to said surface transceiver;
 - 10 c) receiving transmitted signals in said surface transceiver.
2. The method according to claim 1, wherein said electrodes are c-clamps.
- 15 3. The method according to claim 1, wherein said signals are transmitted by asynchronous serial communication.
4. An electrical isolation connector subassembly for interconnecting adjacent tubular drill rods of a drill string, said connector comprising two
 - 20 electrically isolated splitsub components electrically separated by an electrically insulative coating applied to mating surfaces therebetween, said two electrically isolated splitsub components forming an antenna for use in conventional downhole data telemetry, said electrically isolated splitsub components further permitting transmission of data signals through said
 - 25 antenna from an MWD tool contained within said drill string upon retrieval to the surface, without the need for disassembly and direct connection to said MWD tool.
5. The electrical isolation connector subassembly of claim 4, wherein the
 - 30 electrically insulative coating comprises a ceramic base and a polymer sealant.

6. The electrical isolation connector subassembly of claim 5, wherein the polymer sealant is selected from the group consisting of fluoropolymer, polyether sulfones, polyimides, polyamides, polyethylene, and fluoropolymer variants.

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7. The electrical isolation connector subassembly of claim 4, wherein electrodes are attached to each of said two electrically isolated splitsub components to permit said transmission of data signals to a surface transceiver.

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8. The electrical isolation connector subassembly of claim 4, wherein said data signals are transmitted by an asynchronous serial communication.

9. The electrical isolation connector subassembly of claim 4, wherein said transmission of data signals uses a master/slave communication protocol.

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10. The electrical isolation connector subassembly of claim 4, wherein said transmission of data signals is initiated by said surface transceiver.

11. The electrical isolation connector subassembly of claim 10, wherein said surface transceiver sends a request for information signal to initiate communication.

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12. The electrical isolation connector subassembly of claim 4, wherein the electrically isolated splitsub components are interconnected by threaded engagement.

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13. The electrical isolation connector subassembly of claim 4, wherein the subassembly is adapted to receive seals to thereby prevent ingress of drilling mud into subassembly.

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